

THE TEMPEST PROGNOSTICATOR.—The fact that leeches tend to rise to the surface of the water, or the top of the vessel, containing them, when some preliminary meteorological change is in progress, has been long known, and is alluded to by various writers; but it has remained for Dr. Merryweather (most auspicious name!) to mature this fact by experiment into what he regards as an invention of momentous interest to mariners, to agriculturists, and, indeed, to all more or less interested in a foreknowledge of storms. The result of his experiments he states to be, that the rise of the leech indicates the accession of a storm often long before any barometer does so; and, in explanation so far of this circumstance, he adduces Dr. Faraday's account of Pelletier's discovery, that the electricity of the air, as indicated by an electrometer, increases as the instrument rises through each stratum of the air, while it is the same in amount horizontally in each stratum at any one time. It is on something like scientific principle, therefore, that Dr. Merryweather's Suctorial Barometer is constituted, and at all events we can better understand how leeches may thus be weather-prophets, and prognosticate storms, than how snails may constitute electro-magnetic telegraphs without connecting wires. By the way, it is an odd circumstance in connection with this latter somewhat *outré* discovery by a Frenchman, that that singular physio-philosophist, Oken, tells us the snail is the emblem of prophetic life! More singular still it is that Plato declares the liver to be the seat of the spirit of prophecy, and we know that snails are anatomically remarkable for relatively enormous livers!! Alas, for the dignity of the prophet!

AGREEMENTS WITH THE WOODS AND FORESTS NOT SUABLE.—In the case of *W. M. Nurse v. Lord Seymour and Others*, in the Rolls Court, and lately decided, the plaintiff prayed that the defendants should be decreed, in accordance with an agreement of 18th May, 1831, to remove certain projections and encroachments made by the trustees of the Charing-cross Hospital on the footway on the north side of King William-street, and to cause the south frontage of the hospital premises to be made in conformity with the printed plan, so that there might be an uninterrupted passing in a straight line immediately before the buildings throughout that side of the street. Lord Langdale said that there was nothing to show that the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues were liable to be sued for the specific performance of an agreement. They could enter into an agreement with the consent of the Lords of the Treasury, but those actions which could be brought against them were in relation to certain matters only, and there was nothing to show that they could be sued in respect of the performance of an agreement. The plaintiff was not entitled to sustain his bill. The demurrer must be allowed, and the plaintiff must pay the costs.

STREET CROSSINGS AND HALTING-PLACES.—A correspondent, Mr. H. Baylis, of Stourbridge, suggests the adoption of tunnel crossings, with steps descending and ascending 8 feet only beneath the street, in preference to bridges requiring a greater ascent and descent above the same level. Although such tunnels have been repeatedly suggested in our columns, we confess we would prefer bridges in the open air to tunnels in the dark: to be sure they could be lighted constantly, but tricks might be played with the gas-pipes by evil-disposed persons. Our correspondent suggests, also, that halting-places might conveniently be placed as off-shoots to such tunnel-crossings. The injury to health from the inescapable want of such places is pointed out by another correspondent, who suggests the formation, about the parks especially, of a sort of double pavilion, with inner entrances only at

right angles to the outer, and including every requisite, with glass in place of slate, &c. The injury to the health under present circumstances we have repeatedly pointed out,—an injury, doubtless, the more general and severe from the calcareous impregnation of the water in general use within the limits of the metropolis, and which ought never to have avoidable opportunity for deposit within the human body.

IRON PAVEMENT.—Iron is daily coming into more general use for almost every purpose. A letter from Paris, of a late date, says: "A new pavement, to upset the Macadam and other inventions of the kind, has been proposed by Mr. Tobard, who intends paving, in his way, the streets and boulevards of Paris. This gentleman proved by figures that melting iron is only worth 11 francs in Paris, 7 francs in Belgium, and 4 francs in England; whilst the stone costs 25 francs in London, 15 francs in Paris, and 8 and 10 francs in Belgium. This new mode of pavement will be grooved, in order not to become slippery, and it is said that the electricity occasioned by the rolling of the carriages will prevent rust."

WATER-WORKS FOR AMSTERDAM.—This project, or a new one, again presents itself in the form of an advertisement, from which it appears that the capital is to be 500,000*l.*, divided into 25,000 shares of 20*l.* each, or 20*l.* each; deposit 12 florins, or 1*l.* per share. A board of directors has been constituted—of whom eight here are "borne" directors; the others being at Amsterdam, in accordance with the Dutch law, *Société anonyme*, which limits the risk of the shareholder. Of the capital, which consists of 25,000 shares, two-fifths are reserved for Holland and the continent—7,000 having been already subscribed for, leaving 8,000 for appropriation.

STATUE OF FLAXMAN.—The marble statue, begun by the late Mr. M. L. Watson, and finished by direction of his executors and to the satisfaction of the committee appointed to manage the fund (379*l.* odd) subscribed towards its purchase and erection in some public building, is to be exhibited at the Great "Chamber of Industry," in Hyde-park, and meantime the committee mean to appeal to the public for the balance necessary to meet their engagement with Mr. Watson's executors.

BOLTON MARKETS COMPETITION.—At the last meeting of the committee, thanks were voted to the competitors generally, the committee concurring in the feeling expressed by Mr. Godwin, that many of the designs "are worked out with great care, and show a devotion of time and thought to the matter which entitles the authors of them to the thanks of the committee." It was resolved, "That as the placing of slaughterhouses underneath the market would probably become a nuisance and be incompatible with good sanitary arrangements, it is the opinion of this committee that it is not desirable to place the slaughterhouses under the new market." It was agreed that Mr. Robinson should be the architect, upon his entering into arrangements, satisfactory to the council, for the erection of the new Market-house, and to receive 720*l.* for his services as architect.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE AND THE MARBLE ARCH.—In the House of Commons last week, Lord Seymour, in answer to a question from Sir R. Inglis, said that the evidence which had been taken upon the subject of Westminster-bridge had decided the question in favour of the removal of the old bridge, but that a commission was to be appointed to inquire into the best site for a new one. Mr. A. B. Hope (amid applause) begged that the commission would add "another arch" to the subject of their inquiry, and consider what was to be done with the Marble Arch, which certainly could not remain where it was.

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC MOTIVE POWER.—Mr. Hjorth's engine formerly required four powerful magnets to produce a double stroke, but he has succeeded in constructing a model of an engine, which, by one hollow magnet, produces the same results, and which can be extended in diameter according to the required power.—*Mining Journal.*

THE SCOTTISH IRON TRADE.—The prices of pig iron, says a contemporary, are gradually declining, and will, to all appearance, continue to do so, if the ironmasters support their present production. The great majority of the producers of pig iron are desirous that the present make should be reduced, but as yet they have not come to any understanding on the subject. Were they to resolve on blowing out one-half, or even one-third of their furnaces, for six months, I have no doubt prices would materially improve.

AN AMERICAN ORDER OF ARCHITECTURE.—In the lower part of the building, and near the United States Court-hall, my attention was much struck by what I find I have noted as the American School of Architecture: if the invention of an American, it may fairly be so called. The objects alluded to are several columns or pillars, fashioned to represent the bundles of Indian cornstalks, and having capitals representing the grain partially stripped, ripe, and open. The effect is fine, and I should like much to see the design carried out in the erection of a building.—*Baird's West Indies and North America.*

BOXGROVE PRIORY.—A correspondent wishes to draw attention to the fact, that the remaining portion of the monastic buildings at Boxgrove Priory, Sussex, for many years used as a barn, is now threatened with, if not actually in course of, demolition. He says the edifice in question stands on the north side of the church, or ancient choir, to which, from certain points of view, it forms an imposing accessory, and possesses details of interest and value.

CANVASSING ARCHITECTS.—We have received from several quarters cards and circulars sent out by architects and surveyors soliciting business; in one the party offers to prepare schemes for drainage, &c. without requiring other payment than the expenses out of pocket. However derogatory such practices may be, we do not feel called upon to do more than allude to them.

MILITARY MODEL LODGING-HOUSES.—The attention of military men has been called by the *United Service Gazette* to the adaptability of the model lodging-house system to married soldiers, who might thus be lodged in convenient proximity to their barracks, and derive the utmost possible benefit from their late increase of lodging-money, with profit to the Government itself, in place of being scattered, as now, through distant and unhealthy localities.

THE PLAX ON DEEDS.—The *Sassar Express* says,—At the Maidstone Assizes, during last week, Mr. Sergeant Snee, in arguing a question of law, referred to a case ruled by Lord Chief Justice Wode, wherein a deed, conveying a certain parcel of land, recited that it was 25 acres in extent, and further mentioned that a plan annexed described the quantity and position of the land. When the plan was consulted, it was found that the parcel of land was only 25 acres in extent, and the court held that the plan must govern the quantity, because it was part of the deed, and must be held to be more correct than the deed. Lord Campbell (who presided), remarking upon this, asked the learned Sergeant if he ever heard of the fighting attorney, who sent a challenge to a gentleman to meet him in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, and in fixing the event locally, said, "the 15 acres, be the same more or less." Such a description in the deed would have saved all further trouble. Sergeant Snee, amidst a general titter, said he had never heard of the clever attorney who could not forget his law even at such a moment of excitement.

SURVEYORS WITH A DIFFERENCE.—Pray insert the following list of readers, delivered on the 20th ult., for plans of the Harper Charity Estate, at Hedford, also plans showing the drains of the same, and let your numerous subscribers see that there are blind surveyors as well as blind builders:—

Austin (Bedford)	£44	2	0
Jackson (ditto)	28	10	0
Horsford (ditto)	11	11	0
Usher (ditto)	4	14	0

A trifling difference!

G. B.

* An illusory explanatory of the Tempest Prognosticator in the Building of the Great Exhibition for the Works of Industry of all Nations, read before the Whistly Philomathetic Society, Feb. 27, 1861. By F. MERRYWEATHER, Esq., Whistly, the Designer and Inventor. Churchill, Dublin, 1861.

† It is not altogether unsupported in his strange ideas, as least mythologically, and hence, figuratively speaking, &c. &c. (the *Perseus*) had his liver reversed every night.